

with Compliments

Urban District Council
OF
FLOCKTON.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE YEAR 1897.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
FLOCKTON URBAN DISTRICT,
For the Year 1897.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Flockton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the health of your district for the year 1897, and in doing so I am glad to be able to say that, excepting in one respect, it is a very favourable one. There has been a great fall in the General Death Rate and in the Infantile Mortality Rate; and an increase in the Birth Rate. In spite of the great prevalence of easterly winds during the year pulmonary disease was much below the average, and excluding cases of Phthisis, only one death from lung disease was recorded. But I am sorry to report on the excessive prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the last four months of the year. It originated undoubtedly through the continual intercourse with the neighbouring villages where it was epidemic during July and August; and one case I found to have been contracted at Moldgreen. As you know, and as I mentioned in my last report, your district is included in a scheme for an Isolation Hospital for Infections

cases ; and I am assured that, if we had had some means of efficiently isolating the early cases, the number of cases would have totalled considerably less ; and especially would have prevented the common occurrence of three, four, or five cases in one house. However I think that at the end of September we had mastered the outbreak, as only isolated cases occurred during the remainder of the year. Of course, we must expect isolated cases to crop up for several months yet, but you may consider the outbreak to be practically at an end now. I served notices to the School Authorities and to the Parents of every case which came to my notice prohibiting attendance at Day and Sunday Schools ; and as the outbreak was most severe at the west end of the village I closed both Schools for three weeks in September in the hope of keeping it within the original district, and the proof of our success is shown by the fact of so few cases having arisen at the Green, and one of the cases there was actually contracted at Huddersfield. Many cases were notified to me under the Act which formerly would have been allowed to go unheeded, and would have kept the epidemic up for many weeks longer. I have great complaint to make about the carelessness of parents having charge of the cases, many of them taking no means of keeping their children away from others whilst highly infectious—sometimes even wilfully overlooking a case. The next case I propose to report to your Board to be dealt with. Whenever a case occurred in a house where milk is sold, extra precautions were invariably taken.

I have examined the district very frequently and have found it in a very satisfactory state. The privies and ashpits are cleaned out more regularly than last year, although a few complaints have been made regarding them. In some cases where the contents had to be wheeled past kitchen doors and tipped in

the road before being carted away. I have arranged that it should be done during the night. I think the Board should prohibit the tipping of refuse on the roads during the day in cases where it cannot be straightway put into the cart. Common End is in a much more satisfactory condition, and this is shown by so few cases of fever having arisen there. I recommend the Board to pipe away the sink water and slops of the houses in Haigh Lane.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—In addition to the above-mentioned Scarlet Fever, there was remarkably little infectious disease during the year. No Measles at all—A few cases of Mumps in December and of Whooping Cough in January; and one case of Typhoid Fever. Influenza was much less than for several years—Pneumonia was very rare.

The rise and fall of the Scarlet Fever was as follows:—

July	0 cases.
August	13 ..
September	18 ..
October	5 ..
November	2 ..
December	2 ..

BIRTHS:—During the year 36 births were registered as compared with 34 in 1896, 19 were males and 17 were females. 1 illegitimate.

BIRTH RATE:—The birth rate was 28·8 per 1000.

DEATHS:—There were 17 deaths registered during the year as compared with 25 in 1896. Nine of them were males and eight were females. Three deaths, or 17·6 per cent, were caused by Phthisis, again one of the largest items—at ages 19, 20 and 28. One death from pulmonary disease; and none from Influenza, Scarlet Fever, Cancer, or Diarrhoea.

NUMBER OF DEATHS OCCURRING IN EACH QUARTER.

AGED	Under								Over	Total
	1 year.	1	5	5	15	15	25	25—65	65	
In 1st Quarter	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	5
2nd ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3
3rd ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	3
4th ..	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6
TOTAL -	6	...	...	1	...	2	6	...	2	17

DEATH RATE.—The general death rate was 13·6 per 1000 as compared with 20 in 1896 and 18·7 in 1895.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—Only 1 death took place giving a rate of ·8 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Six deaths occurred in infants aged under 12 months—four of them being during the last quarter, giving an Infantile Death rate of 166·6 per 1000 Registered Births. The Rate for 1896 was 193·9 per 1000.

WATER:—I have examined and tested the Public Water Supply on several occasions, and have always found it satisfactory in quality and free from lead and organic matter. No cases of lead-poisoning have come under my notice. During the year 2,210,000 gallons were distributed giving a daily average per head of 1·54 gallons as against 5·25 in 1896.

I append Forms A, B, and C, and the Report of the Nuisance Inspector.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Middlestown,
Wakefield,

J. A. SMITH.

8th February, 1898.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1897. in the FLOCKTON URBAN
SANITARY DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY adopted for the purpose of these Statistics: public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.						
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Heart Disease	Cancer.	All other Diseases.	Total.
FLOCKTON	17	6	0	1	2	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	1	0	0	0	1

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OR DIVISION TO WHICH THIS RETURN RELATES.

Area in Acres.....	1108	Population (1891).....	1213
DEATH (General.....	13·6 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897.		
RATES / Infants (under one year of age)	166·6 per 1,000 Births registered.		

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the FLOCKTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAME OF LOCALITY adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.		
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Scarlatina	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas
FLOCKTON URBAN ...	1,213	1,250	36	Under 5	12	0	0
				5 upwards	27	1	3

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? YES! Since when? 1895. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated? SCHEME BEING PREPARED.

Flockton Urban Sanitary District.

—:O:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—J. A. Smith.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—S. Clegg.

WATER SUPPLY—No. of Houses having constant Public Supply ? All excepting about 4.

Obtained from ? Dewsbury Corporation.

Gathering Grounds—Situation ? Near Halifax.

Any inadequacy in any part ? No.

Quality ? Good.

Action on Lead ? None.

Any extensions or change during 1897 ? No.

SEWERAGE—Extensions or improvements during 1897 ? None.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—Treatment ? Proposed Irrigation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—

Scheme before L.G.B. ? Treatment of Sewage.

L. G. B. Inquiries ? Powers to borrow £1,100. December, 1897.

SPECIAL REPORTS by M.O.H. during 1897 ? Closure of Schools. 2nd September.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Any action during 1897 ? Agreed to join Kirkbulton Districts.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made ? Yes.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1896 ? None.

At close of 1897 ? None.

Reported during 1897 ? Few.

Abated during 1897 ? All.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings? None.

No. of Closets constructed during 1897? None.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

Houses unfit for habitation? None.

Seizure of Unsound Food? None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts? None.

River Pollution? Scheme for treatment of Sewage.

Smoke Abatement? None.

Schools—No. in District? Two.

No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease? Two.

Total duration of closure from this cause? 3 weeks.

Burial Grounds—No. in District? None.

Vaccination—General efficiency? Good.

BIRTHS—Males, 19; Females, 17; Total, 36.

Number illegitimate, included in the above? 1.

Any information as to Still Births? None.

DEATHS—Males, 9; Females, 8; Total, 17.

Number uncertified, included in the above? None.

Value upon which the General District Rate is Assessed—

Full Rateable Value (Houses, etc.) £1,960.

One-fourth Rateable Value (Land, etc.) £243.

Rate in the £ 1897? 4/6.